

FARM AND ORCHARD.

THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THE LITTLE LADY-BIRDS.

Flicking's Experience With French Prunes—Alfalfa in the Mountains—Farms Notes.

The scale-bugs must go; are going in this vicinity as fast as any reasonable fruit-grower could ask. Let us investigate a little. Here is a beautiful young acacia tree. Ten months ago it had a very few scales on its trunk and larger branches, perhaps a dozen. Three months ago the entire surface of these parts was well and completely covered with scales. Let us examine it this morning; we find about two-thirds of the scales destroyed. What has done it? Looking carefully we see many individuals of the two-stabbed lady-bird (a small black lady-bird with a round crimson spot on each wing cover); by watching these a little we see them work loose the edge of the mature scale and eat the egg mass beneath. Here, what is this homely, bristly, dark-brown thing, sluggish of motion, like some silurian monster in miniature of bygone ages? If we watch it we will see it gathering up the young scale-bugs and eating them as a hog does grains of corn. It is the larva of the two-stabbed lady-bird. Here on the rough bark, around this knot, 20 of them are secured themselves by the posterior end, and have changed to pupa, from several of which the perfect beetles are emerging; here on the underside of this knot is a cluster of their dark yellow eggs. The larva of this two-stabbed lady-bird (Walsh) *Chlorina bistrivittata*, is not so slender in form as all others, and is defended in the larva and pupa state by being covered with many black branching hairs or bristles, its food both in larva and adult state being scale-bugs and their eggs.

Here, what is this minute, dark-gray half-globe we see slowly gliding around amongst the scale-bugs? It is the brown-colored lady-bird, *sepius marginifrons*. As it moves around, every time it stops it seizes a young scale-bug, which it eats with evident satisfaction. Here we have an appetite for young scale-bugs and eggs like *Phaenocarpa* for scale. See this one root up the edge of the scale-bug, which has a bright clutch of yellow eggs; it seems to eat its own weight of them every few minutes, and here down near the ground are dozens of pupa cases of a dark-brown color, from some of which the brown beetles are just emerging. This is the smallest of the lady-birds observed here, it being a scant eighth of an inch in length. In Illinois, we had at least one very much smaller, so small as to be seldom noticed without the aid of a glass, and very sluggish of motion, like the two-stabbed; this preyed upon the smallest of scale-bugs. All of these beetles are good swift flyers.

Here! What is this constant stream of small very dark ants that are constantly passing up and down the trunk of the tree? We had noticed them before, but supposed they were going up among the foliage to milk their cows, the Aphids, but one passing beneath the glass, I saw that he had a bright orange speck between its mandibles. Yes, every one of these ants, down has in its jaws the eggs or the young of a scale-bug. A constant stream of them from morning till night, and so far as we know all night also. Now, my good friends, how long will the scale-bugs on this acacia tree withstand the invasion of their numbers by these three persistent and ravenous enemies? Surely not long. Therefore we are pleased to be able to say that the scale-bugs must go; they are going and going fast. You may ask, why do lady-birds are destroying them so fast, why did not they do so before? Simply because some of the best species of these most valuable beetles were not here to destroy them. Species new to this country were imported accidentally from the East, others have been brought from New Zealand, Australia and other foreign countries. In the past the scale-bugs have had their day, the future belongs to the lady-birds.—*Orchard and Farm.*

DRIVING FRENCH PRUNES.

H. F. Flickinger, the well-known San Jose fruit-grower and preserver, writes to R. McGarvey, of Ukiah, as follows: "Mr. A. T. Hatch forwarded me your communication, and requested me to answer it. I do not propose to give you the go-by, and you are perfectly welcome to know about curing dried fruit. I will proceed to give you my experience of the last five years.

My French prunes I dry as follows: I gather the prunes ripe from the trees, by placing on the ground underneath the tree a canvas of sufficient size to take in well the spread of the branches, then gently shake the tree, and fruit that is ripe falls to the canvas. It is necessary to go over the tree every two or three days, thereby you get only the ripe fruit. Immediately they are shaken from the trees the prunes are dipped in a solution, boiling hot, made of twenty gallons water, one pound arsenic and one pound of lime. Dip sufficient to crack the skin; it may take fifteen to twenty seconds, then rinse in cold water. If the skin of the prune peels off, it shows that the solution is too strong, or, more likely, you have allowed them to remain too long in the dip. After rinsing, immediately spread on trays and place in the sun on your dry ground, which should be perfectly clean, no dust, and let them remain until fairly dry, but not rattling dry. Now take the properly-dried prunes to your store-house, and spread them on the floor, not over two feet deep, and let them go through the sweating process, which requires from twenty to twenty-five days' time. As the prunes go through this process, they will be turned with a shovel, every two or three days to equalize the progress of the sweating process. After sweating, the prunes are ready for market. I then dip them in boiling water, say one-half minute, pile on the floor one foot deep, and pack the following day.

If your prunes are gathered ripe and you follow the above method of curing, your prunes will be of a rich, dark color, and highly flavored. You require no evaporator in your climate, other than the sun, to make first-class dried French prunes, apricots, peaches and plums. My trays for drying are made of one by one half-inch redwood with redwood shakes inserted, which makes the tray available on both sides, and are six feet long by three feet wide. There is sufficient space between the trays to admit of piling together, and I move my fruit to the dry ground from the dip by a small cart on railroad track, piled up fourteen trays high. In reference to experienced hands I think you will find most any intelligent man can carry out the above without any difficulty.

ALFALFA IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Any one doubting the fact that alfalfa and all kinds of meadow grasses will grow on our mountain farms, should visit the ranch of Frank Fennons, near Crook's mill. Mr. Fennons has been experimenting with alfalfa, white clover, timothy, blue grass and various other orchard grasses, and finds that they root rapidly and grow luxuriantly. It is a rare treat to see those familiar grasses growing up strong and thrifty so high in the mountains, and is another proof of the productiveness of the soil and the adaptability of the climate of Mariposa county. If more of our mountain ranchers would plant those varieties of grass, they would soon produce all the fine kinds of hay

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There is an upper and lower town. The tortuous streets, though narrow, are wonderfully clean and well shaded by orange, palm and banana trees. The pavements are of the roughest, being merely piles of stones to protect the houses from passing wheels, if there are any. Nobody walks on them, however, but always in the clean, ankle-deep, flea-infested sand that does not sell your shoes and clothes, but clings to your clothes like clay, but rolls off easily as water from a duck's back. There is scarcely a cart or a carriage or any other wheeled concern in the town, because there is no place to go where people cannot walk or row, and if there were, horseback riding would be preferred; while everything marketable is toted about on the backs of donkeys.

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As we mounted the broad steps of the stone-paved pier, after a short row from shore, the cocoa palms were throwing long, fantastic shadows of themselves upon the slow-rippling waters, and the sun was disappearing behind the mountains, and the city was in shadowy gray. The city was built upon a slope, which gradually ascends from the sea to the near-by heights—the latter rising above range above, higher and higher, until they reach the peaks of the Sierrita de la Cruz, which are visible in the endless summer. From these hills the most magnificent views may be obtained of the Californian gulf and its countless islands. The climate is unsurpassed, the thermometer never rising above 90 degrees and the nights being always cool.

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The houses are of the same pattern—rather, two patterns—those of the upper class being one-story adobe, with grating windows and inner courtyard that are

PERFECT BOWERS OF BEAUTY.

While the lowly abode in straw-thatched huts, each embowered in flowers and overshadowed by its orange or olive or tamarind tree. There is a garrison of soldiers, and the Governor lives in a fine house in the midst of a beautiful garden. The residence of the American Consul is a fine house, and the people with water in the middle of an orange grove, and is owned by a private individual, who wants to sell it to the town for the sum of

THERE NO LONGER EXISTS IN THE MINDS

OF THE PUBLIC ANY DOUBT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOHN BREUNER

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Immense Assortment! Choice Designs! Low Prices

IT IS OUR AIM TO SERVE CUSTOMERS AT A DISTANCE WITH THE SAME ADVANTAGES AS IF TRADING IN PERSON. WE SOLICIT CORRESPONDENCE.

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Where Can You Do Better?

LADIES' GENUINE FRENCH KID SHOES!

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\$8!—REDUCED TO—\$3!

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DEALERS IN WATCHES, JEWELRY AND DIAMONDS. Repairing in all its branches. A Specialty. Under MR. FLOBERG. Agents for a JEWELRY WATCH COMPANY.

EDUCATIONAL.

Christian Brothers' College,

Twelfth and K Streets, Sacramento.

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor creases and discoloration, characteristic of old paper. A small, dark, irregular mark is visible near the top left corner. The right edge of the page is dark, suggesting it is part of a bound volume.

TO-DAY, AT 9 A. M.

AT 9 A. M.
Transparent Glycerine Toilet
for 4 cents per cake.
Lines, 40 feet long, 7
Notion Department.
—
HS AT 50 CENTS

Following new colors:
 de Rose, Fleur de Peche,
 da, Deep Rose,
 e, Cardinal,
 Navy.

tt —

R AT 75-CENTS.

soft and lustrous Silk is
 es' Sashes. It can also be
 derwear, and will be found
 use waists or evening cos-
 Dress Goods Counter in all
 75 cents.

tt —

new designs, 75 cents.

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Fine India Silk and Plaid
 ———
 s in our Marbelized Plush
 and better value than we
 offer before for this price.
Dress Goods Department.
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Styles in Standard Paper

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D GLOVES.

—

m weather. The favorite heavy-weight Jersey Mitts colors. Lace Mitts from 15 black and colors, 25 cents. Gloves, of good quality, in 25 and \$1 50—the latter "St. Albert" five-button tops, at \$1 10, is a Glove to those who once try it.

—

w as 90 cents.

Dusters, with capes, simi-

ninen Dusters, \$2 50.

ngee Dusters, \$4. Very

LUBIN & CO.
Street, Sacramento.

357 RECEIVED.

A CARLOAD OF BEDROOM SUITS AND FOLDING BEDS. All in the very latest styles, and elegantly finished in web, antique oak and cherry. Some hand-ome designs, at strictly low prices. Folding beds, at prices equally low for the goods. Folding beds, from \$25 up, now in stock and ready for inspection.

CHAS. M. CAMPBELL
409 K street.
Carpets * and * Furniture
BIDS FOR WOOD.


For supplying the County Hospital with two hundred cords of second growth white cedar, in not less than fifty (50) cord lots, to be delivered at the hospital, sacramento county, The Board resolved to reject any and all bids. By order of the Board.

(SEAL) W. B. HAMILTON, Clerk of Board.
Jy11-2pad

REMOVAL—SUN WING ON & CO.,
JAPANESE BAZAR, WILL MOVE THEIR
store from
block, on August 1st. All goods before this
above date will be sold at bed-rock prices. Jy11-1

FROM NEW YORK A NEW INVOICE OF
TURBANS,
SLIPPER HATS,
 GOODS FOR THE SUMMER TOURISTS.
 SEE THEM AT

621 and 623 J Street
 ssor to Barber & Pealer).




and Goods

.....45 cents
.....75 cents
.....50 cents

.....40, 50 and 75 cents
.....5, 8½, 10 and 25 cents per pair

.....3 pair for 25 cents
.....from 75 cents to \$1 25
.....10 cents each
les and shapes.....from 15 to 50 cents

.....from 30 to 50 cents
—
MECHANICS' STORE, 

E, Proprietor,
to the Plaza)..... Sacramento



CHAPTER I

